



12/20/02

2661

Docket No.: P/61149

**PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Technology Center 2600

In re: Application of : Ghani Abdul Muttalib ABBAS

Serial No. : 09/144,782 ✓

Group Art Unit: 2661

Filed : September 1, 1998 ✓

Examiner: D. T. Ton

For : DATA TRANSMISSION IN AN SDH NETWORK ✓

New York, New York
December 18, 2002

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated October 1, 2002, reconsideration of the rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 6,256,292 to Ellis, either alone or in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,793,760 to Chopping and U.S. Patent No. 6,157,658 to Toyoyama is respectfully requested.

In the new prior art of Ellis and Chopping, no disclosure can be found of the virtually concatenated information structure of the present invention. As with Toyoyama, Ellis discloses virtual *containers* but not virtual *concatenation*.

Virtual containers are a basic element of synchronous hierarchy/SONET protocol and they are disclosed in the relevant ITU-T and Bellcore/ANSI standards. Virtually concatenated data structures according to the present invention provide for high-bandwidth signals to be carried by SDH equipment by use of lower-bandwidth data structures.

Advantageously, the invention sets forth a practical alternative to conventional contiguously concatenated data in that the virtually concatenated data of the present invention may be carried on existing SDH networks with only a minimum of modification, unlike contiguous concatenation which would require upgrade to all elements within an SDH network.

The Examiner's rejections based on the new prior art of Ellis and Chopping are therefore traversed.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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